IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended) An   information   processing apparatus capable of transmitting information to a terminal device, said information processing apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving, after the terminal device has accessed said information processing apparatus, a request signal from the terminal device to obtain information by which the terminal device may access an apparatus that is external to said information processing apparatus;

user identifier generating means for generating a user identifier corresponding to the terminal device in response to the request signal;

generation source identifier storage means for storing a generation source identifier that is ~~associated with said information processing apparatus and which~~ assigned to said information processing apparatus by the external apparatus and which is provided by the external apparatus, the generation source identifier identifying~~ies~~ said information processing apparatus as generation source of the user identifier~~, the generation source identifier being assigned to said information processing apparatus by an apparatus that is external to said information processing apparatus and being received from the external apparatus~~; and

transmitting means for transmitting the user identifier and the generation source identifier to the terminal device ~~so that when~~ to enable the terminal device ~~attempts~~ to request access to the external apparatus by sending ~~thereto~~ the user identifier and the generation source identifier to the external apparatus~~,~~ and to enable the external apparatus ~~is able~~ to use the generation source identifier to identify said information processing

apparatus as the generation source of the user identifier
using the generation source identifier.

2.   (previously presented) The information processing
apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the request signal
received by said receiving means is a request for the
information processing apparatus to issue a user password
identifying a user operating the terminal device and to issue an
introduction password, the user password being the user
identifier and the introduction password being the generation
source identifier.

3.   (previously presented) The information processing
apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said receiving means
includes means for receiving individual information of the user
operating the terminal device.

4.   (previously presented) The information processing
apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the user password and
the introduction password are used for accessing homepage
information contained within the external apparatus, and the
introduction password identifies the homepage information of the
information processing apparatus to the external apparatus.

5.   (original) The information processing apparatus
according to claim 3, further comprising individual information
storage means for storing the received individual information.

6.   (previously presented) The information processing
apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said user identifier
generating means generates the user password in association with
the received individual information and then transfers the user
password to the individual information storage means which
stores the user password in association with the individual
information.

7.   (previously presented) The information processing
apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the generation source

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identifier stored by said generation identifier storage means identifies homepage information.

8.   (previously presented)   The   information   processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the generation service identifier storage means stores an introduction password as the generation source identifier.

9. - 19. (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) An information processing method, comprising:

receiving, at a first information processing apparatus after   the   first   information   processing   apparatus   is accessed by a terminal device, a request signal from a~~a~~the terminal device to obtain information by which the terminal device may access another apparatus that is external to the first information processing apparatus;

generating, at the first information processing apparatus, a user identifier corresponding to the terminal device in response to the request signal;

storing,   at   the   first   information   processing apparatus,   a   generation   source   identifier   that   is ~~associated with the first information processing apparatus and which~~ assigned to the first information processing apparatus by the external apparatus and which is provided by the external apparatus, the generation source identifier identifying~~ies~~ the first information processing apparatus as generation source of the user identifier~~, the generation source identifier being assigned to the first information processing apparatus by another apparatus that is external to the first information processing apparatus and being received from the external apparatus~~; and

transmitting, from the first information processing apparatus to the terminal device, the user identifier and the generation source identifier ~~so that when~~to enable the

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terminal device ~~attempts~~ to request access to the external apparatus by sending ~~thereto~~ the user identifier and the generation source identifier to the external apparatus, and to enable the external apparatus ~~is able~~ to use the generation source identifier to identify the first information processing apparatus as the generation source of the user identifier ~~using the generation source identifier~~.

21.   (cancelled)

22.   (previously presented)   The information processing method according to claim 20, wherein the request from the terminal device is a request to issue a user password identifying a user operating the terminal device and to issue an introduction password, the user password being the user identifier and the introduction password being the generation source identifier.

23.   (previously presented)   The information processing method according to claim 22, wherein said receiving step includes receiving individual information of the user operating the terminal device.

24.   (previously presented)   The information processing method according to claim 23, wherein the user password and the introduction password are used for accessing homepage information contained within the external apparatus, and the introduction password identifies the homepage information of the information processing apparatus to the external apparatus.

25.   (previously presented)   The information processing method according to claim 23, further comprising: storing the received individual information.

26.   (previously presented)   The information processing method according to claim 25, wherein said generating step includes generating the user password in association with the

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received individual information and storing the user password in association with the individual information.

27. (previously presented) The information processing method according to claim 20, wherein the stored generation source identifier identifies homepage information.

28. (previously presented) The information processing method according to claim 27, wherein an introduction password is stored as the generation source identifier.